

DOWNTOWNMANISTEE

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70 Maple St
Manistee, MI 49660

June 8, 2017

Office of Rep. Curt VanderWall
S-1385 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

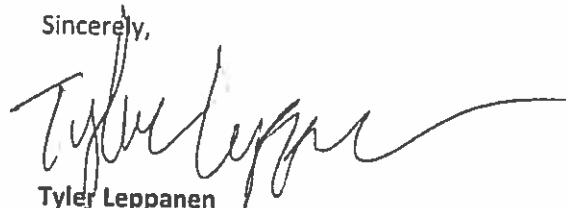
Dear Rep. VanderWall,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the **Executive and Economic Development Director** of the **Downtown Development Authority** in Manistee. As a resident of Manistee County, one of the crown jewels of our community is the Ramsdell Theatre.

The Ramsdell is owned by the City of Manistee but managed by the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts (RRCA), a non-profit independent board. The city has expressed its expectation that the new board will be financially viable for the long haul with a reduced subsidy from the city. One of the ways in which the RRCA Board can raise funds and increase cash flow for the theatre is through concessions that include alcoholic beverages. This opportunity would be greatly enhanced by a minor revision to Section 436.1509 of Michigan compiled laws, reducing the size of a city or township that qualifies for an unrestricted liquor license from 9500 to 5500. With this amendment, the city could apply to the liquor control commission for an unrestricted license.

I, **Tyler Leppanen**, support this change and encourage you to do everything you can to get it through the legislative process. Our city will be the winner.

Sincerely,



Tyler Leppanen
Executive & Economic Development Director
Downtown Development Authority